

A NEW VARIETY OF
LEUCOPHYLLUM LAEVIGATUM
(SCROPHULARIACEAE) FROM MEXICO

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In the course of field work in northern Mexico during the summer of 1971, we (J. L. Reveal, W. J. Hess and the author) collected *Leucophyllum laevigatum* Standl. from the Carneros Pass area of Coahuila. Our collection differs in several respects from the typical phase of the species as it is found in San Luís Potosí, Durango and Chihuahua. Aside from ours, the only other collection from Coahuila, based on a study of specimens at the National Museum of Natural History at the Smithsonian Institution and the herbarium of the Field Museum, is one made by Pringle in the same area in 1890. It also differs from the typical phase and resembles our collection closely. In view of the morphological differences found in the Coahuila specimens, their geographical separation from the rest of the known range of the species, and the evidence that the same geographical and morphological correlation has existed over at least the past 80 years, a new variety of *L. laevigatum* is here proposed. This is the first intraspecific taxon to be described for the species, itself first described in 1924.

***Leucophyllum laevigatum* Standl.**

var. **coahuilense** Kiger, var. nov.

A var. *laevigato* foliis plerumque late oblanceolato-spathulatis, ad 16 mm longis ac 8 mm latis, frequente ac profunde emarginatis, nunquam acutis, saltem subtus persistenter stellato-tomentulosis, sepalis lineari-lanceolatis, corolla caerulea, 2-2.5 cm longa, tubo latius campanulato diagnoscenda.

Low spreading shrub, the young branches densely white stellate-tomentulose with the pubescence thinning with age; leaves mostly broadly spatulate-oblanceolate, to 16 mm long and 8 mm wide, the apex rounded or more frequently markedly emarginate, never acute, often mucronulate, the

young petioles densely stellate-tomentulose, the leaf-blades sparsely stellate-puberulent above and moderately so below when young, the pubescence persistent at least below; pedicels 3-5 mm long, stellate-tomentulose; calyx cleft nearly to base, the sepals linear-lanceolate, to 4 mm long, acute, stellate-tomentulose outside, often glandular within and without; corolla blue, yellowish mottled low in tube, 2-2.5 cm long, campanulate, glabrous and semi-lustrous outside, the tube to 13 mm long, moderately to sparsely arachnose-pubescent inside, the limb unequally 5-lobed, the lobes obovate, the 3 larger broadly so, rounded at the apex, moderately villous-sericeous within, the margin ciliate, the stamens didynamous, the filaments adnate to the corolla tube for 1/2 their length, to 7 mm and 8 mm long respectively, the stigma included in the corolla throat at anthesis about 1 mm below the mouth; mature capsules to 5 mm long.

TYPE. MEXICO: Coahuila: Carneros Pass area, along Mexico Highway 54, 0.7 mile west of highway, about 0.5 mile south of Estación Carneros, 23 miles south of Saltillo, in low canyon associated with *Yucca*, *Agave*, *Opuntia* and *Juniperus*, 5 August 1971, *Reveal, Hess & Kiger* 2617. Holotype US! Isotypes to be distributed from US.

ADDITIONAL SPECIMENS EXAMINED. MEXICO: Coahuila: Carneros Pass area, *Pringle* 3460 (F, US).

The typical variety of *Leucophyllum laevigatum* has leaves proportionately more narrowly spatulate-oblongate, to 20 mm long and 6 mm wide, more often rounded and less frequently and deeply emarginate, sometimes acute, and becoming glabrous or at least glabrate with age. The sepals are linear and usually 2-3 mm long, rarely reaching 4 mm in length. The most striking differences between the two varieties are associated with the corolla. In the typical variety, as in other species of *Leucophyllum* in Mexico, the corolla is purple to violet, whereas in var. *coahuilense* it is a definite blue. In the latter the corolla is consistently from 2 to 2.5 cm long at anthesis, most often

closer to 2.5 cm, while in var. *laevigatum* it is from 1.3 to 2 cm long, usually about 1.5 cm. The tube is proportionately longer in var. *coahuilense* and is more broadly campanulate than in the typical variety where it is narrowly so. Though capsules as long as those usually found in var. *laevigatum* (to 6 mm) have not been observed in the new variety, the difference is probably not significant since the specimens of the latter have only a few mature capsules. Too, while the capsules of the typical variety reach 6 mm in length, they are often smaller and thus overlap the range observed for var. *coahuilense*.

The type of *Leucophyllum laevigatum* var. *laevigatum* was collected by Nelson (4689) in Durango, Mexico, between Ramos and Indé (holotype, US!). Other specimens of this variety examined include — MEXICO: San Luis Potosí: Charcas, *Lundell* 5512. Durango: Huarichic, northeast of Pedricena, *Pennell* 18604; Indé, *Reko* 5207; 5 miles northeast of Yerbanis, *Moran* 6248; 10 miles north-northwest of Rodeo, *Morley* 630; 20 miles south of Zarca, *Gentry* 8614. Chihuahua: near La Boquilla, *Shreve* 8072. All specimens examined are at US.

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